In the Claims:

1.   (original) A method for operating an electronic module (10) supplied with electrical energy by an operating voltage source (U_{Bat}) with a circuit unit (3) for carrying out at least one system function, wherein in the event of an operating voltage interruption the operating voltage (U_s) is supplied by a system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) and the system function can be activated by means of the energy reserve supplied by a function-autonomous capacitor (C_z) and wherein furthermore the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) is charged by a voltage converter (1) connected to the operating voltage source (U_{Bat}), characterized in that the function-autonomous capacitor (C_s) is connected to the voltage converter (1) and to the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) by means of a charging connection (5) and in that said charging connection (5) is controllable in following operating states:

a)   as a switch for clocking the charging current charging the function-autonomous capacitor (C_s), and

b)   as a controllable resistance for producing a constant discharging current for checking the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) and for producing a re-loading current for re-loading the function-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

2.   (original) A method according to claim 1, characterized in

2   that for checking the system-autonomous capacitor (C_s) it is

3   discharged into the function-autonomous capacitor (C_z).

Claims **3 to 5** (canceled).

[REMARKS FOLLOW ON NEXT PAGE]